

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 1923

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on October 16, 1923, in the American Museum of Natural History. President Harry B. Weiss in the chair with 15 members and five visitors present.

Mr. H. H. Rucker, of College of City of New York,

Dr. Roland F. Hussey, New York University,

Dr. Priscilla Butler Hussey, 32 Waverly Place, N. Y. City,
were elected members of the Society.

Mr. Davis read a paper on "The Orthoptera of Wingina, Virginia, which will later be printed in full. It was discussed by Mr. Olsen, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. J. C. Bridwell, lately of Hawaii.

Mr. Loren B. Smith, of the Japanese Beetle Laboratory at Riverton, N. J., read a paper on *Popillio japonica* which since it was first found by Weiss & Dickerson at Riverton, has spread over an area of from 3500 to 4000 square miles, though its distribution is still irregular. In one peach orchard 15 washtubs full were obtained but elsewhere far less. The life history of the beetle was described including its omnivorous appetite which includes 218 kinds of plants. The remedies and attempts to control it by parasites and bacteriological diseases were also discussed. The cost of the control measures was stated to be \$170,000.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 1923.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on November 6, 1923, in the American Museum of National History. President Harry B. Weiss in the chair with 12 members and five visitors present.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Davis for his generous donation towards the cost of printing the "Journal".

The President announced the death on October 30 of Mr. Edgar L. Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson died at the Passaic Hospital, following an operation, and was buried at Chester, New Jersey, where he was born January 13, 1878. He had been a member of the Society for more than ten years and regular in his attendance at its meetings, to which he frequently contributed matters of interest.

On motion by Mr. Davis, resolutions of sympathy were ordered to be prepared by a committee to be appointed by the President.

In view of a further increase in the cost of printing the "Journal", the publication committee was requested to submit a report at the meeting of December 4.

Dr. Sturtevant and Mr. H. H. Johnson spoke on "Associations between Flies of the sub-family *Borborinae* and Dung Beetles of the family *Scarabaeidae*", illustrated by specimens of both. The following abstract has been prepared by Mr. Johnson:

The Dipterous sub-family *Copromyzinae* (*Borborinae*) includes the genera *Sphaerocera*, *Leptocera*, and *Copromyza* (*Borborus*), all of them typical dung feeders. *Trichocypsel*a, one of the numerous subgenera of *Leptocera*, contains four Old World species (Spain, Africa, Ceylon) that are always to be found on the ventral surfaces of *Scarabaeus* and other related dung-beetles. *Trichocypsel*a has not been found in America, but we have found similar habits in an undescribed species of a common subgenus (*Borborillus*) of *Copromyza*. This species was observed upon the elytra of dung-beetles rather than upon the ventral surface, and specimens were obtained upon *Phaneus carnifex* on Nonamesset Island, Mass., and upon *P. igneus* and *Canthon laevis* at Crescent, Ga. Like *Trichocypsel*a these flies, conspicuous by their dark bodies and snowy white wings, are apparently not parasites, but probably use the beetle only for transportation ("phoresic species") Unlike *Trichocypsel*a they were found relatively common upon the dung itself even when no beetles of the species affected by them were found to be near. *Copris* and smaller species of *Canthon* were not ridden by the fly; and other *Copromyzines* were not observed to ride beetles.

Mr. Johnson also exhibited specimens of *Drosophila inversa* Walker, taken at Macon, Georgia. The species has previously been recorded from New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois and northward. Mr. Johnson's observations indicate that the larvæ are true parasites on the alder spittle-insect. Other apparently new records for Georgia are *Zacompsia fulva* Coquillet, *Drosophila hydei* Sturtevant, *D. mulleri* Sturtevant, and *D. sigmoides* Loew. An apparently undescribed species of *Canace* (*Ephydrinae*) was found in enormous numbers on *Spartina* grass in salt marshes at Crescent, Ga., where it is locally known as marsh-gnat. This genus is not listed in Aldrich's "Catalogue"; and, while Williston lists it in his "Manual of North American Diptera", a more definite record as to species or locality was not found. A different species of the same genus has been taken by Dr. Sturtevant in Massachusetts.

Mr. Notman spoke on "Collecting Beetles on a Transcontinental Automobile Tour" with illustrations by about 100 photographs and a part of the beetles he had collected. Leaving New York May 2 he had returned to Keene Valley, N. Y., September 23, making fourteen stops of from 1 to 14 days duration, visiting four national parks, and collecting over 10,000 beetles. The stops were made in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Utah, Oregon, and Yellowstone Park, whence he drove homeward for three weeks without stops for collecting.

Mr. Notman described each of the places at which he had stopped and mentioned some of the interesting species he had found particularly in the

families *Carabidae* and *Staphylinidae*. He said that in collecting beetles along the river front he had observed no striking differences in the fauna but that the forests west of the Rocky Mountains, presented a different appearance from the preponderance of evergreens.

His remarks were discussed by many of the members, developing that Mr. Notman had captured as well as beetles, cicadas, butterflies, membracids and other insects of interest; and had devoted a part of his time to painting some of the striking scenes in the national parks.

Mr. Davis announced the death at St. Petersburg, Florida, about October 25, of George Franck, long an honored member of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, which formerly met at his home. Mr. Franck had reached an advanced age.

Mr. Davis also showed a newspaper clipping received from Warren Knaus regarding a poisonous spider in Kansas.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 1923

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on November 20, 1923, in the American Museum of Natural History. President Harry B. Weiss in the chair with 19 members and seven visitors present.

The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS the New York Entomological Society has learned with deep regret of the untimely death of its member, Mr. Edgar L. Dickerson, therefore be it

RESOLVED that this Society records with deepest regret the loss of one of its most enthusiastic and respected members.

RESOLVED that the members of this Society tender to the family of its late member, an expression of sympathy in their loss and express the hope that the memory of his many virtues will afford consolation in their grief.

RESOLVED that these resolutions be entered on our minutes and a copy forwarded to the family of our late member.

The president read the obituary notice he had prepared for "Entomological News".

Dr. O. A. Johannsen, of Cornell University, was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary read communications in relation to "Zoological Record" from Dr. E. W. Gudger. On motion by Mr. Davis, subscription by the Society to 10 copies of the *Insecta* portion was authorized for its members.

The Secretary exhibited a separate from *Zoologischen Jahrbuchern*, bd., 47, 1923, containing descriptions by Dr. Walther Horn of *Cicindelidae* with reference to North American species, also at the request of Mr. Mutchler, 112, A Memoria del Directorio Compania Administradora del Guano, Lima, 1921, containing description by Dr. Robert C. Murphy of

Psammotrichus lavallei, a new species of Coleoptera from the Guano Islands of Peru, the type of which is in the Brooklyn Museum, also Circular No. 80, Exp. Sta., Porto Rico, being a popular account of El Cucubano.

Mr. Davis exhibited and highly praised Bulletin 36, New Jersey Agricultural Department, Graphic Summary of N. J. Agriculture by Harry B. Weiss.

Dr. Hussey gave a learned "Discussion of Development of Mouth Parts in *Belostoma*", illustrated by lantern slides. After a review of the literature of the subject he showed how in June and July it was possible to obtain plenty of eggs from the back of the male and then trace their development. This Mrs. Hussey and he had done after obtaining about 150 eggs from each of 40 males. The stages of development were shown on the screen from drawings made until the lymph appeared and demonstrated the formation of the four-pointed beak.

Dr. Hussey's paper was discussed by Messrs. Weiss, Notman and Leonard, especially in reference to the dilution of food by injection of saliva of Hemiptera and the consequent effect upon the plants attacked.

Messrs. West and Weiss spoke of "The Plants and Insects of a Dry Woods in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey", illustrated by about 20 boxes of the insects found, topographical map of N. J. and a tabulated chart of the results.

Mr. West first described the area selected, about 20 acres, 14 of forest and 6 of open ground, near Lakehurst, N. J., and the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants found growing there in a sandy soil, entirely destitute of water courses. Mr. Weiss then showed how carefully the insects had been collected on repeated visits at different seasons and by various methods, sifting, sweeping, beating, and netting, until they were satisfied that a fair sample had been obtained. Final conclusions were reserved until a similar survey of other areas was completed.

Dr. Leonard gave a brief report on the progress made on the New York State List of Insects, to the effect that fifty specialists have volunteered and that the sheets are in progress.